

SAN RAMON VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER

P.O. Box 305
Diablo, CA 94528

Editor: Dorothy Stanton

Meetings: 10 a.m.
3rd Tuesday of month
(except August & December)
Danville Women's Club House
242 W. Linda Mesa Avenue
Danville, CA 94526

Volume VI No. 5

November/December 1990

NEXT MEETING: NOVEMBER 20, 1990



PROGRAM: SHARE AN ANCESTOR - SOLVE A PROBLEM

Bill Allen, Charles Graves, Dorothy Stanton and Jane Steiner, all members of the San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society will share their ancestors and experiences in problem-solving at the November meeting. After each has spoken there will be a short question-and-answer period. New members, especially, will find this program both helpful and inspiring. In the past it has proven to be one of our most popular mornings, so do plan to attend.

[From Pat Monteath, Program]



LAST MONTH: "Family Archives" by Mary Ellen Jones by Ardith Steger

[Thanks to Millie Freitas for her notes on Ms. Jones' presentation]

Two places you can order acid-free folders, envelopes, etc.:

Family archives are unpublished documents.

a. Arrange in order of decreasing importance, i.e. outgoing letters, incoming letters, diaries, etc.

b. Keep like materials together.

c. Arrange materials by individual persons.

d. Most important, KEEP ACID FREE. PH is degree of acidity; pH7 is neutral and ideal.

e. Keep documents in as near perfect environment as possible: 60-65 degrees.

f. Use No. 2 pencil (not pen or No.3).

g. Store in Mylar, a form of plastic which is acid-free.

Hollinger Corporation
P.O. Box 8360
Fredricksburg, VA 22404
Phone 703/787-7300

Light Impressions
439 Monroe Ave.
Rochester, NY 14607-3717
1-800-828-6216

October's meeting also included a special THANK YOU to WIN KYNETT for his generosity in providing us with tapes of our speakers each month. We thank Kate Prunte for providing the cake.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

NOVEMBER

- * 13 - Tuesday 10AM SRVGS Irish Interest Group [see p.35]; 7:30PM Livermore-Amador GS Meeting, 1886 College Ave., Livermore. Program: "Copying Old Photos" by Bev Ales, Geo. Anderson. Bring your old photos to be copied in black and white.
- 14 - Wednesday 10AM East Bay GS Meeting, Mormon Center, Oakland. Topic: "Adoption Research".
- 16 - Friday 9AM-1PM "Basic Genealogy Workshop" by Rosemary Kennedy at Nat'l Archives, 1000 Commodore Dr, San Bruno \$7.50 at door; call 876-9009 for reservation.
- 18 - Sunday 1-4PM CGS Special: "Researching Pennsylvania" by David Adams, 300 Brannan St., Suite 409, SF
- * 20 - Tuesday 10AM SRVGS Meeting; 1:30 ROOTS III Meeting [see p.35]
- * 27 - Tuesday SRVGS Library Trip to San Bruno [see p.36]
- * 28 - Wednesday 10AM Publishing Interest Group [see p.35]
- 30 - Friday and Saturday, December 1 11-2 & 6-9PM each day, Concord Historical Society Boutique & Galindo Home Tour, 1721 Amador Ave, Concord. \$10.

DECEMBER

- * 4 - Tuesday 10AM SRVGS Board Meeting at Frances Lloyd's. This month business is set aside in favor of sharing holiday "treats" and good company. ALL MEMBERS WELCOME!
- * 5 - Wednesday 1PM ROOTS III Interest Group [see p.35]
- * 11 - Tuesday 10AM Irish Interest Group [see p.35]; 7:30PM Livermore-Amador GS. Program: "Holiday Sharing".
- 12 - Wednesday 9AM-noon Archives Workshop: "Merchant Marine Records" by Neil Thomsen, 100 Commodore Dr., San Bruno \$7.50 at door, call 876-9009 for reservation; 10AM East Bay GS Meeting
- * 13 - Thursday German Interest Group [see p.35]

NO SRVGS GENERAL MEETING, NO LIBRARY TRIP, NO NEWSLETTER in DECEMBER. HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

JANUARY

- * 2 - Wednesday 10AM SRVGS Board Meeting at Frances Lloyd's. ALL MEMBERS WELCOME!
- * 8 - Tuesday 10AM Irish Interest Group [see p.35]; 7:30 LAGS Meeting.
- * 10 - Thursday 10:30AM German Interest Group; 1PM "German for Genealogists" [see p.35]; 7:30PM CCCGS Meeting.
- * 15 - Tuesday 10AM SRVGS Meeting. Speaker: Wilbur Duberstein, Attorney.

[Some calendar items extracted from "Friends of the Archives" CONSOLIDATED GENEALOGICAL CALENDAR received via Peggy Frazier's MODEM]

OFFICERS to Contact

President: Barbara O'Rand 837-1760
 Vice-Pres.: Frances Lloyd 837-9382
 Membership: Carol Glover 829-7207
 333 Goshen Ct.
 San Ramon, CA 94583
 Annual Dues: \$12.50; \$18 (family)
 NEWSLETTER
 Editor: Dorothy Stanton
 501 El Capitan Drive
 Danville, CA 94526
 820-3757
 Mailing: Barbara Dittig
 735-9610
 The Newsletter is published each
 month except August & December



WELCOME!

New Member: BESSIE H. SMYTH, 19 Wanda Way, Martinez, CA 94553 (228-6033). Researching: HART, New York; CARTER, Virginia.

THANKS!

To BETTE KOT & BARBARA IRWIN for volunteering to be SRVGS delegates to the Federation of Genealogical Societies.

To MARY McNAMARA for volunteering to be one of our book reviewers.

To KARLENE ALTEMUS for volunteering as a "sub" for the Freebie Basket.



SPECIAL INTEREST STUDY GROUPS

- GERMAN** - Meets second Thursday of each month 10:30AM at Kate Prunte's, 91 Madera Ct., Danville (838-9873). At 1:00PM on same day, Kate will continue her "German for Genealogists" at \$10/3 classes. This series will alternate between Christening, Marriage & Death Records. Call Kate a week prior to class. Next meetings: December 13 and January 10.
- IRISH** - Meets 10AM each second Tuesday of the month at Carol Glover's, 333 Goshen Ct., San Ramon (829-7207). Next meetings: Nov. 13, Dec. 11 and Jan. 8.
- PUBLISHING** - Meets 10AM fourth Wednesday of each month. Next meeting, Nov. 28 will be at Shirley Terry's. Contact Marilyn Fullam (828-1873) for future meetings.
- ROOTS III** - Meets 1:00PM (Note Change) first Wednesday of each month and 1:30PM on the third Tuesday at Sandy Aberer's, 110 El Nido Ct., Diablo (837-8271). Next meetings: Nov. 20 & Dec. 5.
- SOUTHERN** - Next meeting: 10AM THURSDAY January 18 at Frances Lloyd's. Call 837-9382 for information.

SPECIAL INTEREST RESEARCH HELPS

► CZECHOSLOVAK INTEREST GROUP

A new Czechoslovakian Interest Group has been formed in the San Francisco Bay Area. From an initial first meeting attendance of 24, it has ballooned to 54 at the October meeting at Cafe Bohemia in Martinez. It has been formally named the CALIFORNIA CZECHOSLOVAK CLUB, and will next meet on November 17th in San Rafael at which films of Czechoslovakia will be shown by Helene Cincebox of her many trips to her homeland. Details of the club, its meetings, particularly the November social, can be obtained by calling Mary Jo Hosteny at 932-2244. After January the bi-monthly meetings will be held in Martinez at the Cafe Bohemia. It has an exciting future with ambitious plans, so join us now!

Also: "NÁŠE RODINA" Newsletter is published quarterly by the Czech Gen. Society, P.O. Box 16225, St. Paul, MN 55116. Membership \$10/yr.

Contributed by Mary Jo Hosteny

► POLISH NAME BANK

Poland has established a name bank, set up by the Genealogical Research Center in Puetusk, north of Warsaw. Help will be provided for those tracing Polish roots. Write: Osrodek Bodan Genealogicznich "PIAST", OL Zaulek 22, Puetusk, Poland.

[Reprinted from PA Ethnic Studies Newsletter, Univ. of Pittsburgh, Winter 1990 via SMCSS N/L Oct 1990.]

► SLOVAK SOCIETY

THE SLOVAK GENEALOGY RESEARCH CENTER's opening is announced by its director, Roy Plutko, 16455 E. Prentice Place, Aurora, CO 80015. The center has been approved by the newly created Genealogy Commission of the Slovak World Congress and is the first step in

developing a clearinghouse for Slovak researchers. Mr. Plutko has a "Slovak Genealogy Kit" to help researchers plus placing each individual's data on a special computer program to match participants by surnames, regions & villages. To date, over 3,000 entries have been acquired. Write Mr. Plutko for details. [From Forum Summer, 1990]



► ANCESTOR SHIPS

Even if your ancestor did not arrive on the Susan Constant or the Mayflower, you may know the name of his ship and want to find a picture of it. Joyce Buckland (our Sept. speaker and publisher of "The English Researcher") suggests the following books:

Ships of Our Ancestors by Michael J. Anuta
Great Passenger Ships of the World Arnold Kludas
American Clipper Ships 1833-1858 &
American Merchant Ships 1850-1900 by F.C. Matthews & O.T. Howe.

Joyce offers to search the above books in her library. Enclose SASE with requests. Write Krans-Buckland Family Assn., Inc., P.O. Box 1035, North Highlands, CA 95660-1025.

► BIRTH OR DEATH AT SEA

If a U.S. birth or death occurs on the high seas, whether in an aircraft or on a ship, the record will be found at the U.S. Dept of State, Washington, DC 20510 if the craft was outbound or docked at a foreign port. On the other hand, if the event occurred when the craft was inbound and the first port of entry was in the U.S., the registration is in the city where the craft landed. Or, if the craft was of U.S. registry, you can contact the U.S. Coast Guard facility at the port of entry.

[From Napa Valley Gen. & Bio. Soc. N/L Jan 1988 via CCCGS N/L Vol. 3 No. 5]



LIBRARY & ARCHIVES UPDATES

► NOVEMBER LIBRARY TRIP

by Mary Jo Hosteny

Our November trip will be on Tuesday the 27th to the National Archives, 100 Commodore Drive, San Bruno. Members will meet behind Lucky's on Diablo Rd. in Danville at 8AM to carpool. Those living further north of Danville or Walnut Creek may call Mary Jo Hosteny at 932-2244 to arrange an alternate meeting place.

► OAKLAND FHC COMPUTERS

The Oakland Family History Center has their computers in operation with compact disks (CD-ROM) containing the IGI and catalog of the Family History Library holdings in Salt Lake. The Ancestral File will be available at a later date. KATE PRUENTE reports that you can reserve a computer for a one-hour period by calling in (531-3905) at least by 5 the day before. Otherwise, you can sign up at the desk when you arrive at the library. Print-outs will be five cents per sheet.

At our November meeting, PEG FRAZIER and BARBARA IRWIN will report on the use of the computers.

► "ROOT CELLAR" in PLEASANTON

Shirley Terry announced at our October meeting that the Pleasanton Library has purchased the Everton Publishers' "Family File" & "Root Cellar" on microfiche. For those not familiar with the *Genealogical Helper*, this is a listing of ancestors contributed by subscribers. Each name is identified by an event date, a location and the name & address of contributor to contact for exchange of research information.

► SOCIAL SECURITY DEATH RECORDS

The Family History Library in Salt Lake has acquired Social Security Death Records on CD-ROM disks to be used on their computers in Salt Lake. These can be checked by name or Social Security number. The records reveal date and address of the last payment check, thus making them useful for locating persons you've "lost".

► ALAMEDA COUNTY REGISTERS

The East Bay Genealogical Society reports finding new homes for the ten boxes of Alameda County Voting Registers in their possession because of lack of space at the

EBGS Library. EBGS is retaining only one volume, 1902, which includes all of Alameda County. It is in poor condition, but is available for your use at the library.

The Alameda Historical Society Museum, 1327 Oak St., Alameda, has the volumes covering the city of Alameda for the years 1914 through 1924. The Berkeley Historical Society, 1325 Grant St., Berkeley, has 14 volumes covering the city of Berkeley and Ocean View (now Albany). The years are 1916, 1918, and 1920 including Ocean View, and 1922 through 1932 for Berkeley only.

The California Genealogical Society, 300 Brannan St., San Francisco, now has the 40 volumes which cover the city of Oakland from 1914 through 1930. All of these records have been microfilmed and are available at the Oakland Library in the newspaper room. [From Carolyn Storm, *The Live Oak* Nov/Dec 1990]

► CONTRA COSTA VITAL RECORDS

Records held at the Contra Costa County Recorder's Office in Martinez (Death records for 1905 thru 1939 and Marriage records 1949-1959), have been recalled by the state and are now in Sacramento. [From Jane Steiner]

► NATIONAL ARCHIVES

Frances Lloyd reports that December 8 is the only Saturday the Archives in San Bruno will be open until the first of the year. Call first (876-9009) before attending any workshops to be sure they will be held. Frances is a volunteer at the Archives on the first & third Mondays. She leaves Danville at about 9:15AM; give her a call, if you would like to go with her.

► A WORD OF APPRECIATION

[Editor's personal note] Returning from 4 days at the Family History Library in Salt Lake, I've been reflecting on the wonderful facility there--four large floors containing hundreds of computers, microfilm & fiche readers, thousands of rolls of film as well as books! All of this is made available at no charge, even though it's a privately-run library! Genealogists owe a huge debt of gratitude to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (Mormon) whose members cheerfully contribute time & resources to make this possible. Where would we be without them!



NEW INDEXES AVAILABLE AT NATIONAL ARCHIVES, SAN BRUNO
By Frances Lloyd, Friends of the Archives Representative

Series M694 VOLUNTEER SOLDIERS 1784-1811

An alphabetical card index to the compiled service records of volunteer soldiers who served during the period from 1784-1811. Each card gives the name of a soldier, his rank and the unit in which he served. Names that appear under more than one spelling are cross-referenced as is service for more than one unit or organization.

This file does not include Regular Army members records. It does contain abstracts of entries relating to the soldier as found primarily in original muster rolls, payrolls and returns, some receipt rolls, various lists and originals of papers relating solely to the particular soldier.

The 9 roll series is located in file case #37, drawer 9.

RECORDS OF THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR RELATING TO WAGON ROADS, 1857-1881

These records (part of National Archives Record Group 48) contain a register and copies of correspondence sent and received, itineraries, journals and other papers kept and maintained in the Office of the Interior 1856-1881. They pertain primarily to the

construction of the wagon road in the West under the direction of the Secretary of the Interior and secondly to the roads constructed by State authorities under public land grant legislation.

The roads were built under several acts. One from Fort Ridgley, Terr. of MN to the South Pass of the Rocky Mts in NE Territory, another from Fort Kearney via the South Pass of the Rocky Mts and Great Salt Lake Valley to the eastern portion of CA - known as "Fort Kearney, South Pass and Honey Lake Wagon Road" and authorized construction of roads from El Paso to Fort Yuma and from Fort Defiance, NM Territory to the CO River near Mohave River. A third provided for a road within the NE Terr. from Platte River to Running Water River. A fourth dealt with roads in the territories of IO, MO, Dakota and NE.

The records include employers, engineers, shopping lists, and are delightful reading even if your people didn't help build the roads or cross over them.

The series is located in file case #37 drawer 9.

[Below is a sample of correspondence in the Wagon Roads file]

*M. Phasant Torro
Dec 19th 1886*

Genl J. H. Simpson

Chief Engineer

Washington D. C.

I send the honor to acknowledge yours of Dec 18th addressed to Wellington Bird Supt. & disturbing agt Virginia City & Lewiston Wagon Roads. The steamer on which he was to have sailed has not arrived up to this time; is now 8 or 10 days over the usual time. As soon as he arrives I will



TAPE REVIEWS

by Shirley Terry

BEYOND THE BASICS: TEACHING ADVANCED GENEALOGY

C-64 PART I -

Tape Speaker: Anne Dallas Budd

Part I covers what should be expected of the teacher of advanced genealogy. The readiness or pre-requisites of the student are also discussed briefly. Anne Budd really gets audience participation and help in determining criteria, qualifications and credentials that should be required when choosing genealogy teachers. She gives some ideas on how to gain that added depth necessary to teach, and suggests specific articles in genealogical journals and what aides are available. She mentions several annual "institutes of genealogy" and also suggests home study programs, some leading to certification as a genealogist.

C-65 PART II -

Tape Speaker: Marsha Hoffman Rising

You might like to see if you could pass her ten-question quiz to see if you are ready for such a class. You're sure to learn a lot from this tape which discusses curriculum and three different methods of teaching classes in advanced genealogy. Subjects that might be covered in an Advanced Problem Solving Course are: elusive wives and how to find maiden names; places of origin; sorting out individuals by the same name, missing records; tracking migrating ancestors; dealing with adoption or illegitimacy; special ethnic groups and religious denominations. An Advanced Methodology Course taught at Samford University in Alabama covers: problem solving techniques; psychological framework for tracing elusive ancestors; using government documents; correlation of census records and tax rolls; finding birth, death and marriages before vital records; and the preponderance of the evidence principle. The third method given was studying sources not encountered before perhaps by using "The Source" as a text. This is a great tape!

One of these tapes gave the Samford University curriculum for an Intermediate Class which might be of interest. It included: westward migration patterns; pitfalls of genealogical research; church records; lineage societies; naming patterns, immigration and naturalization; analysis and correlation of evidence. Samford U. in Birmingham AL, by the

way, offers an Institute of Genealogical and Historical Research annually the third full week in June.

You'll notice that many of the subjects mentioned above are available to you in our tape library. Now, you'll know whether they apply to intermediate or advanced genealogy.

C-69 - BEYOND THE INSCRIPTION: GATHERING FULL CEMETERY INFORMATION

Tape Speaker: Pat Geyh

Pat Geyh is a good speaker with a very interesting voice. She includes lots of humor and helpful information. She mentions the trend of state genealogical societies publishing cemetery lists. Cemetery Societies are also discussed, especially that of Wisconsin, who keep track of cemeteries that have been recorded and either have copies of information or know who does. She suggests sending donations when asking for information as these are privately funded organizations. Of the 5,143 known cemeteries in Ontario, 68% or 3,529 had been copied at the time she was speaking at the May 1989 NGS Conference and they hope to have all cemeteries copied by 1991. Copies of these are in the Genealogy Archives in Toronto, the Genealogical Society Library in Toronto and the Canadian Archives in Ontario. You'll enjoy this tape.

C-41 HOW TO BUILD A CASE WHEN THERE IS NO EVIDENCE TO SOLVE YOUR PROBLEM

Tape Speaker: Elizabeth Shown Mills

Elizabeth Mills is a wonderful speaker who give lots of helpful information. She is a professional genealogist and takes you through a very interesting case study where she solved a problem a man had been working on for 30 years.



A REMINDER: Members who borrow a tape from our tape collection in order to write a review of it for the newsletter, do not need to donate \$1. Check with Shirley Terry as to which tapes have been reviewed.



BOOK REVIEWS

By Mary Jo Hosteny

THE RESEARCHERS' GUIDE TO AMERICAN GENEALOGY by Val D. Greenwood, 2nd ed., Genealogical Publishing Company, 1990. 609 pp. hard cover.

This is one of the best basic books on American genealogy that I have seen. It has become the text of choice in colleges and universities wherever genealogy is taught. Written in narrative style, it covers such basic topics as understanding genealogical research, familiar record practices, evaluation of evidence, research tools, the types of records and their uses, together with numerous illustrations and charts. It concludes with a brief treatment of the use of computers in genealogy.

Greenwood's book has been adopted by the National Genealogical Society as its basic text in their home study courses. If you can afford only one basic genealogy book, I recommend this one.

[Available from Frances Lloyd, Genealogical Resources, price \$26.76]

APPLIED GENEALOGY by Eugene A. Stratton, Ancestry Inc., 1988, 330 pp., soft cover.

The author treats on a theoretical basis various aspects of genealogical research, including standards and documentation, whole-family genealogy, how to analyze direct and indirect evidence, and the validity of genealogical evidence. This is not a how-to for the beginning or advanced researcher. The author treats of various genealogical problems, citing multiple case histories, including a discussion of hereditary societies and their requirements.



HOLIDAY HINT:

To insure that Santa brings the right gift genealogy book, post your "Wish List" with the phone number of Genealogical Resources (837-9382)!

PRESIDENT'S PILGRIM ANCESTRY



[Editor's note: an Associated Press newspaper article from Leiden, Netherlands last year was entitled "Genealogist Says Bush is Related to Quayle". The article which appeared in the SF Chronicle follows.]

President Bush discovered his Pilgrim ancestry here yesterday when he was shown proof of a direct family link with English religious dissenters who left this town for the New World in the early 1600s.

The records also show that the president is a distant relative of Vice President Dan Quayle, with some branches of their ancestry going back to a 14th century family living on the Isle of Man.

After Bush delivered a speech at St. Peter's Church, city archivist Theo Schelhaas gave Bush a copy of his family tree, which dates back to an English couple known to have married in Leiden in 1603.

The president made the trip to Leiden during a 25-hour courtesy visit to the Netherlands. English Protestant dissenters lived in Leiden for more than a decade before setting sail for America in the early 17th century.

Bush is a direct, 12th generation descendant of Francis Cooke and his Canterbury-born wife, Hester Mahieu, according to Schelhaas' records.

Little is known about the Cookes except their marriage date, June 4, 1603, and the fact that they had three children, including their daughter Jane Cooke, a Bush ancestor born here in 1615.

According to the Leiden records, Bush's roots can also be traced to another Pilgrim family, the sisters Abigail and Sarah Henney, both born in Leiden and daughters of a brewer's apprentice, John Jenney, and his wife Sarah Carey.

Bush's father was related to Abigail Jenney as well as to the Cookes, and his mother is a descendant of Sarah.

[Contributed by ALICE WADE. Alice adds: "I, too, went to Leiden but in August 1988. Jane Cooke is my 12th great-grandmother who was married to Experience Mitchell in Plimoth Colony. He too was born in Leiden in 1609 and they came on the ship "Anne" (the 3rd ship to Plimoth) in 1623. I was able to get copies of various papers there as Pres. Bush was given by the Archivist. I am descended from their son Jacob."]



GIVE THANKS!

GENEALOGICAL BEATITUDES



Blessed are the great-grandfathers who saved embarkation and citizenship papers,
For they tell when they came.
Blessed are great-grandmothers who hoarded newspaper clippings and old letters,
For these tell the story of their time.
Blessed are all grandfathers who filed every legal document,
For this provided the proof.
Blessed are the grandmothers who preserved family Bibles and diaries,
For this is our heritage.
Blessed are fathers who elect officials that answer letters of inquiry,
For to some they are the only link to the past.
Blessed are mothers who relate family tradition and legend to the family,
For one of her children will surely remember.
Blessed are relatives who fill in family sheets with extra data,
For to them we owe the family history.
Blessed is any family whose member strives for the preservation of records,
For theirs is a labor of love.

(Author Unknown) Contributed by Mary Jo Hosteny



***** HAPPY HOLIDAYS! *****

SAN RAMON VALLEY
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
BOX 305
DIABLO, CA 94528



FIRST CLASS MAIL